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**INSECURITIES IN NIGERIA**

Insecurity in Nigeria is a significant reason why the growth and development of the country are affected. Insecurity is a feeling of being insecure in ones environment. When you are insecure, you lack confidence in something. Although Nigeria is blessed with resources, it doesn’t change the fact that nowhere in the country is safe and no one knows who to trust. There are several causes of insecurity, some are discussed below:

Corruption has been institutionalized in Nigerian policy, it has become a normal way of life and it has eaten deep into the Nigerian Society. It is an illegal behavior especially of people in authority, allegation of bribery and corruption in private, public and governmental establishment. (Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs). Sadly, it is one of the causes of the economic problems we face today as the idea of dealing with corrupt Nigerian politicians could deter foreign investors. Solution can only come when we have selfless leaders who only have the best interests of Nigeria at hand. Corruption can further lead to unemployment. In a situation where investors who had planned to build companies, thereby creating job opportunities, are discouraged by how corrupt the authorities are and they later leave, isn’t that corruption causing unemployment? The overwhelming rate of unemployed citizens in the country is alarming. A statistics provided by the NBS as of 2019 showed that the unemployment rate in the country has risen to 23.1%. Although, it is evident that rapid growth in population is a major cause of this problem, the decline in the country’s economy is another cause. The poverty rate in over half Nigeria’s 36 states is above the national average of 69%. A lot of people have been laid off, while new jobs are not created. It is the responsibility of the government to create job opportunities as well as the citizens to create opportunities through entrepreneurship.

Another of these causes is the weak judicial system in Nigeria. It is normal for citizens to feel insecure when criminals go scot-free. People don’t even have the courage to go to court nowadays, because once their opponent, though is found guilty, has a strong backing, there is no way they can win the case. The highest that can be done to such opponent is to be granted a bail. Many evil-minded people think that money can buy freedom in the country, and unfortunately the corrupt system proves this line of thought. The judicial system should be changed to such that they would be transparency. Furthermore, drug trafficking is also one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. The Federal Government should initiate cooperation with other countries to fight drug traffickers. Same goes for human trafficking. Women and young girls are being tricked into migrating to other regions in the country or outside the country. They hope for greener pastures, for better jobs, but instead, they are forced into prostitution and slavery

For several years, citizens have been victims of rape. Rape is the act of forcefully having a carnal knowledge of someone. Several girls, boys, women have fallen victim of this disgusting act. No place is safe anymore, ladies are told to be in their homes before its dark. Yet, criminals come into their homes, rape them, steal their properties and leave them emotionally and financially disabled. We hope that one day Nigeria will return to the days of our forefathers, when virginity was cherished and everyone could move freely without the thought of being raped. Also, citizens have been victims of robberies, which sometimes happen in daylight. Organized criminal gangs now take over the streets of the country. Of course, corrupt government officials cannot provide help to Nigerians to fight with these criminals. The Federal Government should pay attention to this problem. Terrorism is not a new problem in the country. For years now, Boko Haram and Niger Delta Avengers have been causing great damages to the country, bombing cities, causing loss of lives and properties. Several Nigerian soldiers lose their lives every day for their country. Now, it is a matter of time before the terrorists will be eliminated.

Nigeria has many opportunities to transform its economy, particularly in agro processing. But insecurity could chase foreign investors, shrivel the domestic economy, and ultimately dampen prospects for economic growth. Although this country has her faults, it can still rise up to take back her title as Giants of Africa. We can make Nigeria a better place only if we unite. Together we fall, together we stand.